

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: REACTION TO PERON'S ORDER TO PURGE MARXISTS

REF: BA-7213

1. SUMMARY: PERON'S ORDER TO PURGE MARXISTS BEING CARRIED OUT ON SEVERAL LEVELS. PERONIST LEFT WING PUBLICLY TAKING POSITION THAT LEADERS OTHER THAN PERON MUST BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ORDER AND THAT PERON HIMSELF WILL SHORTLY DISAVOW. COMMUNIST PARTY (PCA), ON OTHER HAND, SEEMS NOT UNHAPPY WITH SITUATION, PROBABLY HOPING THAT DISGRUNTLED MEMBERS OF PERONIST LEFT WING MAY BEGIN TO SWING OVER TO PCA. FEW ARE LIKELY TO DO SO, HOWEVER. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ADDITION TO MOVES IN THE CGT AND AT THE UNIVERSITY, RESULTS OF PERON'S CALL FOR PURGE OF MARXISTS ALSO SEEN IN REORGANIZATION OF CABINETS OF A NUMBER OF PROVINCES AND IN LINE ADOPTED BY BARIOUS GOVERNORS. GOV BIDEgain OF BA PROVINCE, FOR EXAMPLE, WHO UP UNTIL FEW WEEKS AGO WAS PUBLICLY SUPPORTING LEFT, HAS NOW ISSUED STRONG STATEMENT DENOUNCING "MARXIST" ELEMENTS AND VOWING TO PURGE THEM FROM PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT. CABINET CHANGES, MOREOVER, HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN MENDOZA, SAN LUIS, LA RIOJA, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND SALTA. PRESSURES ALSO SAID TO BE BUILDING UP AGAINST LEFT

IN BOTH CORDOBA AND TUCUMAN.

3. LEFT WING OF PERONIST MOVEMENT, ESPECIALLY PERONIST YOUTH (PY), IS FOR MOMENT PURSUING MUCH THE SAME LINE THEY HAD TAKEN AFTER PERON'S STANCE AGAINST EXTREMISM JUST FOLLOWING HIS JUNE 20 RETURN--I.E., THEY ARE AIMING ATTACKS AT LOPEZ REGA AND RIGHT-WING LABOR LEADERS RATHER THAN AT PERON AND ARE SUGGESTING THAT PERON HIMSELF IS NOT REALLY AUTHOR OF ANTI-MARXIST LINE. FOR EXAMPLE, LATEST EDITION OF EL DESCAMISADO, ORGAN OF MAIN BODY PY, CARRIES LEAD EDITORIAL ON "INVENTION OF THE PURGE--AND OTHER STUPIDITIES" WHICH SUGGESTS THAT "RESERVED ORDER" (SEE REFTEL) WAS FABRICATION OF LA OPINION AND OF RIGHT WING OF PERONIST MOVEMENT. "IT NOW SEEMS", EDITORIAL COMMENTS, "THAT WE MUST DROP THE STRUGGLE FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND NATIONAL LIBERATION IN ORDER TO DEVOTE OURSELVES TO A WITCH HUNT. AND IT IS NOT PERON BUT JACOBO TIMMERMAN WHO TELLS US TO DO SO."

4. EDITORIAL DELIBERATELY OVERLOOKS FACT THAT ALMOST TWO WEEKS HAVE GONE BY SINCE PERON REPORTED TO HAVE CALLED FOR PURGE AND HE HAS NOT DISAVOWED ORDER. MOREOVER, THERE IS AMPLE EVIDENCE TO INDICATE THAT THIS IS IN FACT LINE HE PERSONALLY HAS CHOSEN FOR PARTY.

5. COMMENT: PERON CLEARLY DOES NOT INTEND TO DESTROY WHOLE LEFT WING OF HIS MOVEMENT. THEY ARE A MAJOR COMPONENT THEREOF, AND, MOROVER, HE NEEDS THEM AS BALANCE AGAINST RIGHT. RATHER, HE SEEMS TO BE AIMING AT GETTING RID OF LIMITED NUMBER OF MORE EXTREME LEFTISTS, AND OF PLACING WHOLE LEFT OF CENTER CONTINGENT WITHIN PROPER "JUSTICIALIST" FRAMEWORK. HENCE, MARXIST IDEOLOGY, AS SUCH, MUST BE REJECTED. AS ONE EDITORIALIST HERE PUT IT LAST WEEK: "ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ANDES THEY ARE TRYING TO LIQUIDATE THE LEFT, ON THIS SIDE SIMPLY TO PUT IT IN ITS PROPER PLACE."

6. REACTION OF COMMUNIST PARTY (PCA) IS INTERESTING. RATHER THAN DUCKING ISSUE, PCA LEADER LAST WEEK REFERRED TO PERON'S ORDER AS "EDICT OF WAR." PCA ORGAN NUESTRA PALABRA FOLLOWS UP IN OCT 10 EDITION WITH EDITORIAL CALLING "RESERVED DOCUMENT" DANGEROUS AND REITERATING THAT IT CONSTITUTES FORMAL DECLARATION OF WAR AGAINST MARXISM. UNLIKE EL DESCAMISADO, NUESTRA PALABRA EDITORIAL

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MAKES NO EFFORT TO PRETEND PERON NOT RESPONSIBLE. RATHER, IT STRESSES THAT PCA AND MANY PERONISTS HAD BELIEVED STRUGGLE WAS ONE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION AIMED AT FREEING COUNTRY FROM CLUTCHES OF ITT AND STANDARD OIL. NOW, WITH ISSUANCE OF DOCUMENT WORTHY OF ONGANIA, PINOCHET OR MACCARTHY HIMSELF, ALL MUST WONDER. NUESTRA PALABRA CALLS ON "PATRIOTIC AND ANTI-IMPERIALIST SECTORS OF PERONISM" TO REFLECT UPON THIS FACT AND UPON WHERE THEY REALLY WANT TO GO.

7. OBVIOUSLY, PCA IS HOPEING DISILLUSIONMENT WHICH MAY GRIP LEFT WING OF PERONISM AS RESULT OF ANTI-MARXIST LINE WILL BE REDOUND TO ITS ADVANTAGE. IT PROBABLY ENVISAGES GRAVITATION OF DISGRUNTLED PERONISTS TOWARDS PCA. A FEW MAY IN TIME HEAD THAT WAY, BUT MOST WHO MAY EVENTUALLY LEAVE PERONISM ARE MORE LIKELY TO END UP WITH PARTIES SUCH AS ALENDE'S INTRANSIGENTES OR CORAL'S PST, OR WITH TERRORISTS. GREAT MAJORITY OF PERONIST LEFT WING, HOWEVER, LIKELY SIMPLY TO STAY WHERE THEY ARE, EVEN IF TEMPORARILY UNHAPPY WITH NEW LINE. PERON IS PAST MASTER OF PRESSING JUST FAR ENOUGH AND THEN EASING UP AND OFFERING SOME SWEETNER TO KEEP AS MANY AS POSSIBLE WITHIN MOVEMENT.
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